

From: Carl Schnurr
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 7:04pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Enclosed please find my comments on the ongoing MS litigation.

-Carl

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I find it hard to believe that the state of Utah has the time or the money to pursue litigation against Microsoft. Our projected deficit for this year is nearly two hundred million dollars, and no good can come of further time in the federal courts. My state, along with eight more of the eighteen plaintiff states in the Microsoft antitrust case, are currently seeking to overturn a perfectly reasonable settlement in the hopes of making more of a profit for themselves. I am writing to express my dismay, not only that the suit has gone on this long, but also that there is the possibility that it may drag out even longer. Microsoft, the Justice Department, and the plaintiff states are not the only parties that have felt the negative effects of this suit - the economy has declined even further, the consumer has suffered, and progress within certain aspects of the technology industry has lagged. I do not believe that the pursuit of further litigation is in anyone's best interest.

The settlement that Microsoft and the Justice Department have managed to reach is fair and reasonable. Microsoft has agreed, for example, to reformat future versions of Windows so that non-Microsoft software will be supported within the Windows operating system. Moreover, Microsoft plans to document and disclose various source code, interfaces, and protocols integral and native to the Windows operating system to facilitate customizability within Windows and to allow non-Microsoft servers to interoperate natively with Microsoft servers. Microsoft's competitors will be able not only to use Windows as a platform to market their own software, they will also have the opportunity to reconfigure Windows so as to promote their own programs.

I believe the settlement is just. I see no need to pursue additional litigation on the federal level. This has gone on far too long already. I urge you to support the settlement and finalize it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Carl Schnurr

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